



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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DLNR SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT TO DEVELOP HĀ'ENA STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

LIHU'E – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of State Parks will hold public open house workshops, this weekend to seek input for developing a master plan for Hā'ena State Park.

“DLNR is working with PBR Hawai'i and Associates to come up with a master plan for the park that balances the public use and preservation of its natural resources,” said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

“We invite the community to share with us their thoughts about how our master plan should encompass the coastal and marine systems, terrestrial flora, fauna, and wildland resources, and protection of the historically significant cultural sites and practices at Hā'ena,” she said.

Open house workshops are scheduled on Friday, October 24, 2008 from 4 to 7 p.m., and on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 9 a.m. till noon at Limahuli Hale in Limahuli Gardens.

An additional workshop will be held on Saturday, October 25 from 2 to 5 p.m. in Līhu'e at the County Planning Commission rooms 2A-B in the Mo'ikeha building. Persons needing special accommodations are being asked to contact Catie Fernandez with PBR Hawai'i at (808) 521-5631.

Earlier planning efforts resulted in a community-preferred alternative that recommended improvements to the road, parking, renovation and retrofitting of the existing restroom, an additional restroom, foot and bicycle paths, a visitor center, picnic areas, and support facilities such as a baseyard, gate facility, and caretakers' cottage. Upon refinement of a plan, an environmental impact statement will be prepared that addresses the potential impacts of the improvements.

Hā ‘ena State Park is a scenic wildland park located at the “end of the road” on Kaua‘i’s north shore, and is an extremely popular destination for both visitors and locals. Popular features include viewing of its ‘wet cave’ — ancient sea caves formed during a higher stand of sea, probably 4,000 years ago. Tradition credits Pele, the volcano goddess, as having dug the caves in her search for a new home.

Parks users enjoy beach-related activities, shore fishing, views of the spectacular Napali coast and swimming at Ke‘e beach during calm conditions. The turquoise cove provides a picturesque setting to enjoy a picnic or stroll on the beach. The trailhead for the 11-mile Kalalau Trail begins in this park. The park features restrooms, outdoor showers, hiking trail, trash cans, drinking water, and pay phone.

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For more information news media may contact:
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